

**Members present:**

Ed Altizer, State Fire Marshal  
David S. Ellena, VASSP  
Steve Matsko, DGS  
Fred Ellis, Fairfax Co Public Schools  
Norman Gray, VSP  
Al Ciarochi, Henrico Schools  
Doug Middleton, Henrico Police  
Stewart Roberson, Moseley Architects  
Clifford Bowen, Poquoson PD  
Doug Westmoreland, Moseley Architects

**Members absent:**

Rick Arrington, DCJS  
Craig Branch, Germanna Community College  
Chris McIntosh, OVAHS

**Notes:**

- Chief Middleton passed around copies of his full recommendations. Summaries of each are:
  - **ESTABLISH RECOMMENDED BUILDING DESIGN:** Establish recommended building designs for all school buildings based on type: elementary; middle; high; college, etc. Many facilities in current use today were built in the 1950's. Clearly, security concerns have dramatically increased since that time. Many schools, built on the 'campus style' design cannot be secured adequately. Discuss after Sub-Group's work at May Meeting.
  - **PROVIDE ACCESS TO SCHOOLS:** The current environment has created security-related issues in schools that are of such a nature that law enforcement cannot access the school without being 'buzzed' in to the facility. Should an incident occur, police officers would have to "breach" the access point and thereby give away their position of entry.
  - **ADDRESS RADIO INTEROPERABILITY:** Develop a recommendation for radio interoperability for schools and law enforcement. In many instances, law enforcement and schools do not have the capability to communicate direct with one another during an incident or crisis

- **RADIO REQUIREMENTS:** Require evaluation of all schools being built or renovated to determine adequate in-building penetration of local public safety radio frequencies. If in-building penetration is insufficient to provide adequate communication capability for such system, the building shall be equipped with radio amplification systems necessary to do so.
- The group widely agreed that the scope of their work should be focused on best practices, rather than additional regulations.
  - Each school district (and even schools within the district) is/are unique. What works for one may not work for others.
  - Sensible, achievable recommendations
  - List of best practices to be tailored by each school division, in consultation with public safety
  - Simple, straightforward document
  - School crisis planning audit can be a vehicle for educating on best practices

### Issues Identified

- New design/Retrofitting
  - Sustainable design creates obstacles—involvement from all needed on front end
  - Updating existing measures—for example, automating pull-down gates to section off schools
  - Plans for retrofitting older buildings should be made when building a new school in the same district
- Education/training
  - Simple standards based on best practices
  - When considering safety is not necessarily the primary job of teachers, simple, quick to accomplish, easy to remember protocol are best
  - Improve existing policies
  - Very individualized
- Communication
  - Coordination in design and protocol between schools and public safety
  - Resource database, possibly housed at VCSS
    - A “best practices” manual already exists
    - Dozens of writings and literature on the subject
    - Schools, architects, and public safety can all access relevant literature

### Other points made

- Aspects of discussion don't just apply to schools—any public place is vulnerable to the same issues
- Rural districts are a major concern, as they don't have a lot of the same resources as larger areas
  - Regionalization of radio systems is one way to assist

**Additional representatives for future meetings:**

- Dept of Housing representative to discuss building code
- Ensure a higher ed rep is present